

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

# FSIS NOTICE

47-15

8/6/15

## VERIFICATION OF NON-FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS—POULTRY CLASS STANDARDS

### I. PURPOSE

This notice re-issues FSIS Notice 25-14. This notice provides inspection program personnel (IPP) instructions regarding verification of the amended poultry class standards of identity and composition.

### II. BACKGROUND

A. A final rule changing the poultry class standards in response to innovations in the poultry industry went into effect on January 1, 2014. The new poultry class standards are found in [9 CFR 381.170\(a\)\(1\)](#). These standards define a “roaster” as a young chicken between 8 and 12 weeks of age with a ready-to-cook (RTC) carcass weight of 5 pounds or more, that is tender-meated with soft, pliable, smooth-textured skin and breastbone cartilage that is somewhat less flexible than that of a broiler or fryer.

B. In response to a petition from the National Chicken Council (NCC) and in consultation with USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), FSIS is developing a proposed rule to eliminate the minimum age requirement for “roaster” chickens. While this rule is under development, FSIS is directing its inspection personnel not to object if chickens younger than 8 weeks of age continue to be labeled and marketed as “roasters” provided that these birds meet all of the other characteristics of a roaster in the standard, i.e., a ready to cook carcass weight of 5 pounds or more, tender-meated with soft, pliable, smooth-textured skin, and breastbone cartilage that is somewhat less flexible than that of a broiler or fryer.

### III. IPP VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES

IPP are to continue to follow the methodology and documentation for verifying compliance with non-food safety requirement in [FSIS Directive 7000.1](#), *Verification of Non-Food Safety Consumer Protection Regulatory Requirements*. For stated reasons in the Background Section, although the amended “roaster” standard provides for an age range of 8-12 weeks, birds may be labeled and marketed as “roasters” or “roasting chickens” if they are younger than 12 weeks and they meet all of the physical characteristics of a “roaster” in the standard.

### IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Labeling and Program Delivery Staff through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-301-504-0878. When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab, and

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enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 47-15**  
Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible.  
Product Field: Select **Labeling** from the drop-down menu.  
Category Field: Select **Labeling Regulations, Policies and Claims** from the drop-down menu.  
Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** or **International (Import/Export)** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

**NOTE:** Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Seitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development